A8912-2

SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

July 11, 1980

SEISMIC EXPLORATION FOR OIL AND GAS RECORDS STRONG INCREASE INTERNATIONALLY DURING FOURTH QUARTER OF 1979

Figures released today by the Society of Exploration Geophysicists indicate seismic exploration worldwide for oil and gas registered a strong increase during the last three months of 1979. The number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in December, 1979, was 841, compared with 793 in September, 1979. Major gains during the fourth quarter were reported in the United States, Canada, and the Far East.

The worldwide totals of seismic crews and vessels active during previous quarters were as follows: Third quarter (September) 1976: 621; fourth quarter (December) 1976: 621; first quarter (March) 1977: 635; second quarter (June) 1977: 626; third quarter (September) 1977: 650; fourth quarter (December) 1977: 686; first quarter (March) 1978: 730; second quarter (June) 1978: 738; third quarter (September) 1978: 746; fourth quarter (December) 1978: 744; first quarter (March) 1979: 767; second quarter (June) 1979: 731; third quarter (September) 1979: 793.

The international survey reflects data reported on seismic oil exploration activity by 110 private and governmental crew operators around the world. Special significance is attached to the figures since seismic crew activity is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC CREW COUNT, DECEMBER, 1979

Geographically, seismic exploration for oil and gas during December, 1979, was reported as follows. (Third quarter, September, 1979, figures are shown in parentheses.):

UNITED STATES

	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
56 Contractors:	380 (364)	25 (24)
10 Oil Companies:	39 (39)	4 (4)
1 Government:	0 (0)	2 (2)
Totals:	419 (403)	31 (30)

Total Crews and Vessels: 450 (433)

CANADA

	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
23 Contractors:	67 (45)	1 (2)
2 Oil Companies:	3 (3)	0 (1)
Totals:	70 (48)	1 (3)

Total Crews and Vessels: 71 (51)

MEXICO

	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
6 Contractors:	21*(21)*	3*(3)*
1 Government:	5 (5)*	0 (0)*
0 Oil Companies:	0 (0)*	0 (0)
Totals:	26*(26)*	3*(3)*

Total Crews and Vessels: 29*(29)*

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CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA (Other than Mexico)

	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
10 Contractors:	46 (43)	13 (8)
4 Governments:	9* (14)*	0* (0)*
2 Oil Companies:	2* (2)*	1* (0)*
Totals:	57* (59)*	14* (8)*
Total Crews and Vessels:	71*(67)*	

EUROPE

	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
11 Contractors:	47* (48)*	7* (16)*
0 Governments:	0 (0)	0 (0)
2 Oil Companies:	4 (4)	0 (0)
Totals:	51* (52)*	7* (16)*
Total Crews and Vessels:	58*(68)*	

MIDDLE EAST (Including Pakistan)

	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
6 Contractors:	35 (33)	2 (1)
1 Government:	2 (0)*	0 (0)*
0 Oil Companies:	0 (0)*	0 (0)*
Totals:	37 (33)*	2 (1)*
Total Crews and Vessels:	39 (34)*	

AFRICA

	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
8 Contractors:	34 (41)	6 (3)
1 Government:	2* (2)*	0* (0)*
1 Oil Company:	11* (11)	0* (1)
Totals:	47* (54)*	6* (4)*
Total Crews and Vessels:	53*(58)*	

FAR EAST (Including all countries east of Pakistan)

	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
11 Contractors:	33 (31)	10 (11)*
2 Governments:	19* (3)	1* (2)
3 Oil Companies:	3* (3)*	4* (3)*
Totals:	55* (37)*	15* (16)*
Total Crews and Vessels:	70*(53)*	

DECEMBER TOTALS:	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
U.S.:	419 (403)	31 (30)
Canada:	70 (48)	1 (3)
Mexico:	26* (26)*	3* (3)*
Central & South America:	57* (59)*	14* (8)*
Europe:	51* (52)*	7* (16)*
Middle East:	37 (33)*	2 (1)*
Africa:	47* (54)*	6* (4)*
Far East:	55* (37)*	15* (16)*
Totals:	762* (712)*	79* (81)*
Total Crews and Vessels:	841*(793)*	

*These totals include estimates from informed industry sources of additional unreported crews and vessels.

SEG's International Seismic Crew Count is financed by a grant from the International Association of Geophysical Contractors.